



Joseph Rice - 6th District ~ (414) 278 - 4243 ~ Joseph.Rice@milwcnty.com

Dear Friend:

This newsletter will provide you with news regarding County government and updates on my activities as your representative on the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.

Included in this newsletter is a preview of the **upcoming 2012 Budget**, outlining some of the challenges likely to be faced. Elsewhere, an update is provided on the **Milwaukee County redistricting process**; review of county **legislative action** that took place since our last correspondence; an update on the **improvements in our county parks**; and highlight of the **recreational and cultural opportunities** you can take advantage of throughout the county.

I also want to thank all of you who have taken the time to write, email or call my office with opinions, suggestions, and even questions - I value these very much and am mindful of them as I consider policy matters. I encourage all of you to reach out to my office with your suggestions, opinions, as well as questions or requests for assistance.

Very truly yours,

Milwaukee County Supervisor

Supervisor
Rice's Committee
Assignments

Health and Human Needs

Judiciary, Safety and General
Services

Personnel

Member

Milwaukee County
Research Park
Board of Directors

Milwaukee Regional
Medical Center
Board of Directors

War Memorial, Inc.
Board of Directors

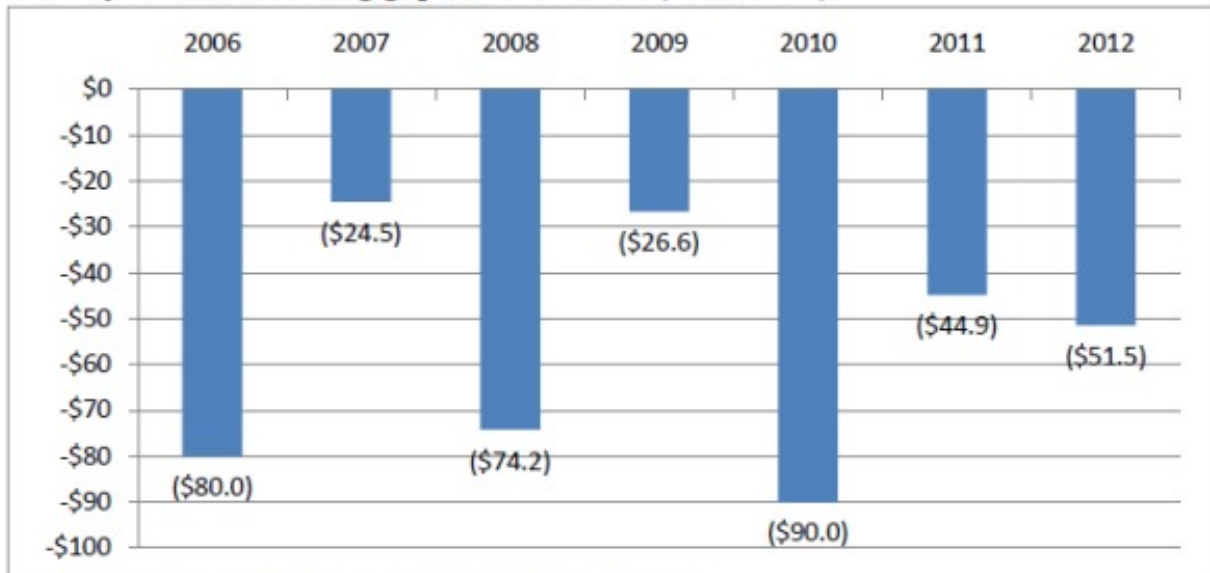
VISIT Milwaukee
Board of Directors

Milwaukee County Budget Preview and Schedule

On September 29th, County Executive Abele delivered his 2012 Budget to the County Board. At

that point, the board commenced its review and approval of an annual budget. Given the Milwaukee County's current less than favorable fiscal condition, the 2012 County Budget adoption will be a bumpy ride; according to the projections, the 2012 Milwaukee County Budget projected deficit is approximately \$51.5 million.

History of initial funding gaps, 2006 to 2012 (in millions)

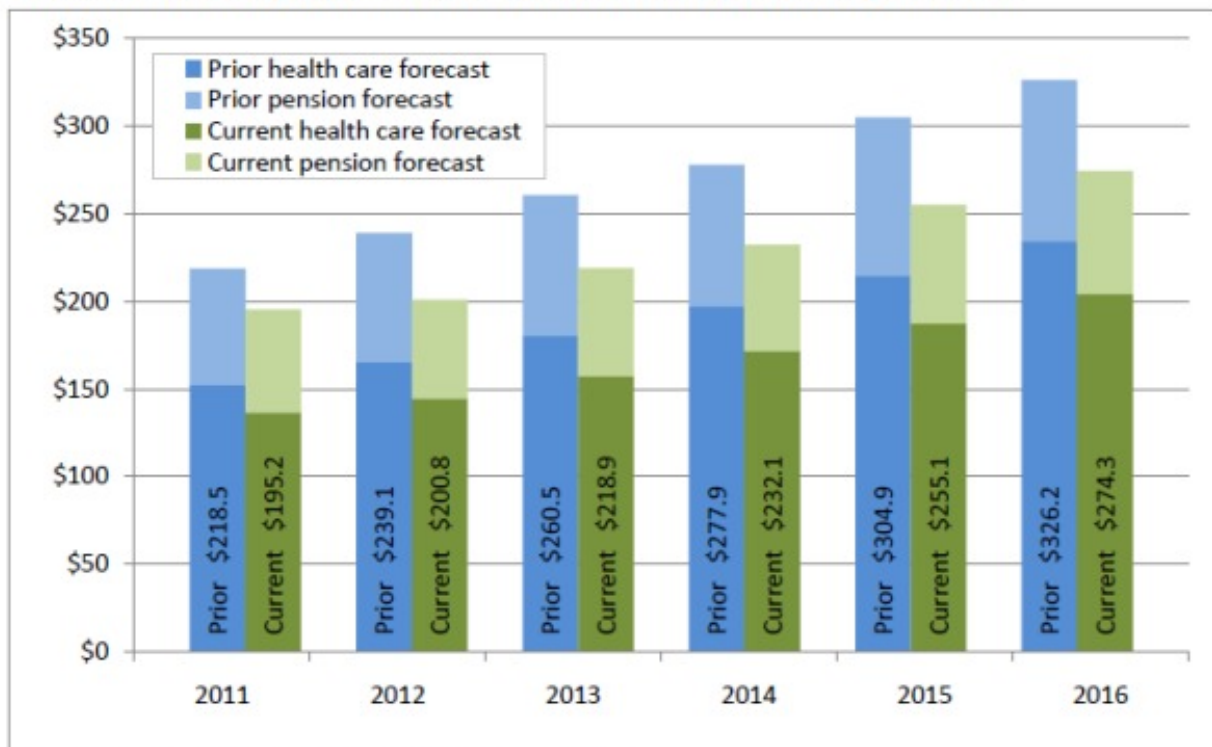


Source: Milwaukee County Department of Administrative Services

Reduced revenues and increased costs of providing programs, combined with the ongoing national economic recession, have contributed to the growth of the deficit. The biggest strain on Milwaukee County's budget continues to be the employee retirement and other fringe benefits. Increases in expenditures for employee and retiree health and pension fund contributions during the past decade continue to put an enormous strain on the county.

Considerable help in this regard came with the enactment of the State Budget Repair Bill making it possible for the county to achieve cost savings. According to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) wage and benefit reductions made possible by the budget repair bill could reduce expenditures by \$24.7 million in 2012.

Prior and current projections for health care and pension expenditures



Source: Milwaukee County Department of Administrative Services

The County Executive is to be credited with proposing a budget that does not raise the tax levy. The tools to achieve this are due, in part, to the aforementioned changes in state law that permit employee fringe benefit costs savings. Taxpayers will need to be assured that this budget is built upon a solid foundation. Of concern is the assumption that the county will receive at least \$10 million in far from certain federal transit funding. It will be up to the County Executive to convince citizens that his cuts to vital public safety areas - such as those in paramedic and law enforcement services - will not have a detrimental impact on vital services now serving as a model of intergovernmental cooperation.



BUDGET ADOPTION SCHEDULE

September 29th

County Executive presents the Recommended 2012 Milwaukee County Executive Budget to the County Board. The recommended budget is referred to the Board's Finance and Audit Committee for review.

October 1st - 1st Week in November

Finance and Audit Committee reviews the County Executive's Budget and includes potential amendments.

October 31st at 7:00PM

Milwaukee County Board holds public hearing on the Budget at Washington Park Senior Center (4420 W. Vliet Street)

November 7th

County Board Budget Adoption Meeting

November 16th

County Board meeting to consider possible vetoes

Outcome of the Milwaukee County Redistricting

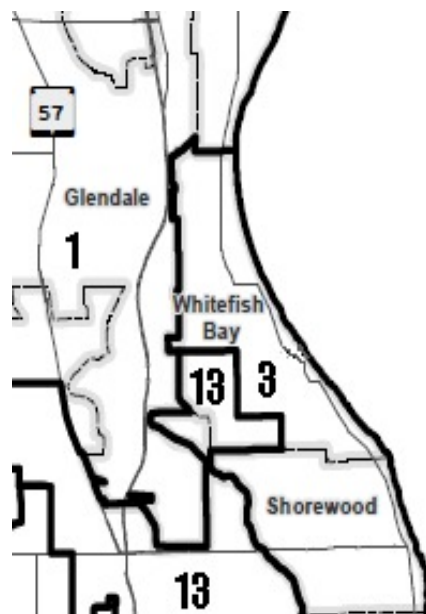
The process and substance of the decennial redistricting process by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors have been heavily criticized by many individuals and organizations within the county. Many others within the North Shore have **questioned** the plan, saying it had a negative impact upon the North Shore communities, it was developed hastily and with little public input or time to consider alternatives.

I favored a plan with more meaningful **downsizing** of the County Board to increase efficiency and save costs.

The County Board nonetheless proceeded with approving the flawed redistricting plan and County Executive Abele failed to veto it. The plan reduces the number of Milwaukee County Supervisory districts from 19 to 18. The adopted plan eliminates District 6 despite overwhelming public opposition from North Shore residents who did not want to see the **North Shore community** split into three separate districts.

The broader community response to the process and plan has also been highly critical, labeling it **petty politics** and a **sham**. The Intergovernmental Cooperation Council, made up of the municipal leaders from the nineteen Milwaukee County municipalities, strongly objected to the plan and unanimously endorsed a resolution opposing the plan and suggesting an alternative.

The changes from the redistricting plan will become effective following the April 2012 Spring election. as the outcome of the Spring election begins another four year term for Supervisors who won races in their respective districts.



Whitefish Bay's representation is divided among Districts 3 and 13

Not Above the Law!

On September 26, 2011 Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Jane Carroll issued a ruling that the Milwaukee **County Board of Supervisors violated the Open Meetings Law** when it voted upon a tentative redistricting plan at its April 21, 2011 meeting. I was compelled to file a complaint against the County Board due to the Board's clear violation of the public's right to know. The Court ordered that the Board as a whole and County Board Chairman Lee Holloway each pay forfeitures to the state for the violations, as well as pay attorney fees in the case.

Legislative Roundup

Domestic Partner Benefits: At its July meeting the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors by a vote of 13-5 adopted a resolution to extend the health benefit coverage to domestic partners of eligible active Milwaukee County employees and their dependents. I opposed this resolution from the start as I believe increasing fringe benefits and expanding eligibility to non-employees is unwise in light of the financial difficulties Milwaukee County government is facing.

Sick time: The County Board took action to close the loopholes in granting sick leave to returning employees. At the July 28 meeting, the County Board approved a resolution that requires returning employees to "re-earn" their sick time and vacation time - meaning that should they leave county employment, they lose the previously earned sick leave benefits should they decide to come back. The county's new policy is much fairer to the taxpayers, and will prevent future abuse.

Pension Backdrop Cap: In June of this year Milwaukee County Board created a taskforce to explore the possibilities of rolling back some of the generous pension backdrop benefits enacted in 2003. With nearly \$70 million of County's expenditures in 2010 going towards the pension fund, it is imperative that all options be carefully looked at to rein in these burdensome expenses. The taskforce will report to the Board periodically and I look forward to reviewing their findings later this year.

UWM Innovation Park Groundbreaking

On August 9, 2011 the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee broke ground on Innovation Park in Wauwatosa. Milwaukee County sold the land to UWM to make this project possible, and putting shovels in the ground is a giant leap forward and a beginning of another worthwhile development in Milwaukee County.

Innovation Park will house the UWM School of Engineering and will generate new jobs and enhance economic development of southeast Wisconsin.

I am optimistic that the new Innovation Park will build upon academic and medical research in close cooperation with the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center.



Wisconsin Juror Appreciation Month



Milwaukee County hosted the Juror Appreciation Month in September. To mark the occasion, the circuit court offered a variety of activities to thank jurors and recognize the critical role they play in our democracy and system of justice. "Jurors serve justice, and justice serves us all" was this year's slogan.

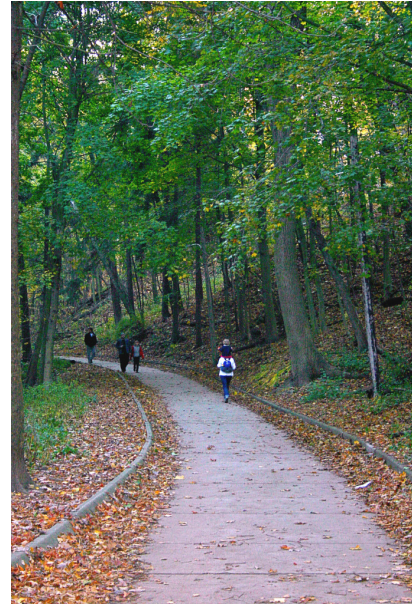
The courts greatly appreciate the time and dedication of jurors. Without them, our system of justice would not function properly. Employers and families of jurors also deserve tremendous thanks for supporting jurors in Milwaukee County.

Improvements at Doctors Park

I have worked with the Parks Department to improve the poor condition of the parking lot and the roadway leading to the picnic tables at Doctors Park, as well as repair the damage caused to the park's ravine walkway and bridge by the recent flooding. Parks Department has secured funds and is in preparation stages to perform these much needed repairs.

The revenue for the repairs will be provided by the Milwaukee County Capital Improvements Fund and a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In addition to repaving the parking lot and the roadways, the repairs will include the replacement of an adjacent section of eroded asphalt pavement, the inspection of storm water lines as well as the repositioning and stabilizing of the same, and the replacement of eroded subsurface stone.

It is anticipated that construction for the roadway, parking lot and FEMA funded repairs will be completed by early summer of 2012.



Brown Deer/Southbranch Creek Site Restoration

The Milwaukee County Parks Department, in cooperation with the River Revitalization Foundation, the Village of Brown Deer, and several private partners have completed the restoration of the new Brown Deer/Southbranch Creek site. The site has undergone extensive renovations that include restoring the flow and bank of the Southbranch Creek, adding a segment/extension to the Oak Leaf Trail, and installing a 4-foot tall turtle sculpture.

The Brown Deer/Southbranch Creek restoration restored the 2.24 acres along the Southbranch Creek found in the Village of Brown Deer at the intersection of Green Bay Road and Teutonia Avenue. Once the creek restoration was complete with native plantings, boulders, and a restored flow, the project for a new segment of the Oak Leaf Trail began. The off-street trail was extended from Brown Deer Park through the Original Village to a crossing at Deerbrook Trail and Brown Deer Road.

Lastly, a 4-foot turtle sculpture, made out of concrete and embedded with ceramic tiles will be installed on the south side of the Green Bay Road and Teutonia Avenue intersection to finalize the project. The turtle features the names of all the donors and sponsors of the site revitalization.

Rainforest Night at the Milwaukee County Domes



Explore the "Tropical Rainforest" guided only by the light of your flashlight! You'll learn about the fascinating world of the rainforest and our dependence on it. Amid lush tropical plants, you'll meet, up-close-and-personal, birds of the rainforest.

You'll have the opportunity to sample tasty products of the tropics, such as chocolate, nuts, plantains, coffee, and exotic fruits and juices-- you can even make your own mini-sundae with ingredients from the rainforest.

The Arid and Floral Show domes will also be open for your exploration. End the evening with a light show! See a dazzling display in the Floral Show Dome. Organic, fair-trade, and sustainable products will be available for purchase. Hop to The Domes for a fun night in Milwaukee County's "rainforest."

The event takes place on October 7, 2011 from 6:00PM - 9:30PM

No registration is needed. **Regular admission rates apply.**

Autumn Fest at Boerner Botanical Gardens!

Come join us for...

AutumnFest

11am-
3pm

Sunday
October 9th

Join us as we celebrate the changing season with, children's crafts, story time with Lois Ehler from her 2 new children's books, beer tasting with Lakefront Brewery, seasonal products from local vendors & many more autumn themed activities in the gardens!

October 9, 2011
11am to 3pm - Rain or Shine!!!

Admission:

Children - \$5 (ages 2 and younger - free)
Adults - \$5 members / \$7 non-members
Seniors - \$3

Proceeds from the event support our Children's Plant Science & Environmental Education: Programs, dedicated to teaching children the importance of environmental preservation.

For more information please visit Boerner Botanical Gardens' [website](#), or contact Amy Opad at 414-525-5661 or aopad@fbbg.org

2011 Edition of Halloween Haunts at the Wehr Nature Center

Follow Night Travelers (our special guides) into the Enchanted Forest for a humorous, educational, and slightly spooky trek along a jack-o-lantern lit trail. Meet creepy characters who will teach you about our connection with nature's Halloween creatures. After your 45-minute hike, enjoy indoor activities and refreshments. Dress for the weather - this program goes on, rain or shine!

Thurs., Oct. 13: General Public
Fri., Oct. 14: Friends of Wehr only Join Today
Sat., Oct. 15: General Public

6:30-8:30pm

Tickets must be purchased in advance. Purchase your tickets early! Especially designed for families with children 4-10 ! For more information, please visit the Wehr Nature Center's [website](#).





The world of Cleopatra VII, lost to the sea and sand for nearly 2,000 years, will surface in Milwaukee on October 14, 2011 when Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt opens its doors. The Milwaukee Public Museum will be the third stop on the exhibition's world tour.

The exhibit features nearly 150 artifacts from Cleopatra's time and helps visitors experience the present-day search for the elusive queen, which extends from the sands of Egypt to the depths of the Bay of Aboukir near Alexandria.

For tickets and additional information, please visit the museum's [website](#).

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